



What People are Saying about the DIPLOMA Act

“Our communities have a major role to play in the education of our children, and the DIPLOMA Act affirms that role and responsibility. It offers a clear partnership framework and the incentives for schools and communities to work together to help students succeed. The DIPLOMA Act will bring to scale effective community schools strategies in diverse places including Cincinnati, Tulsa; Kansas City, MO; New York; Portland, OR; and South King County WA.”

- Martin Blank, Director of the Coalition for Community Schools and President of the Institute for Educational Leadership

“Through the DIPLOMA Act more local partnerships will blossom to address the challenges standing between the community’s children and their success. Our United Way has been a major partner in the Cincinnati Community Learning Centers Initiative that coordinates existing services and captures other funding sources to better meet those challenges. We applaud Senator Brown’s leadership in recognizing that helping our young people succeed requires paying attention to the many aspects of their lives that influence learning.”

- Robert Reifsnnyder, President and CEO of United Way of Greater Cincinnati.

"The growing imperative to increase student achievement, from preparing every child for kindergarten to ensuring every student is college and career ready, will require a comprehensive approach to education - all of us working together to get this right. This will ultimately happen on the ground in local communities, as it is now in Cincinnati, Ohio, where the Strive Partnership - a consortium of school, college, civic, nonprofit, business and philanthropic leaders - is working to better align resources and talent, with work grounded in data and the principles of shared accountability, to fundamentally improve student achievement, cradle to career. This effort, and others like it around the country, will continue to run into federal funding and policy roadblocks if no action is taken. The DIPLOMA Act presents a new way forward, and the kind of federal support states and local communities need to advance comprehensive efforts to fully integrate a broad array of resources around what works for kids."

- Chad Wick, Chief Executive Officer of KnowledgeWorks Foundation

“DIPLOMA reflects the next phase of ESEA: the inextricable link between academic outcomes and non-academics supports; between school and the public, and between students and their opportunity to learn. This bill puts state and local data to work by focusing on student needs and encouraging partnerships that coordinate and integrate services rather than eliminate them through consolidation. Increasing college and career readiness cannot be done by schools alone. It requires the building of civic capacity as well as instructional capacity. Public Education Network and its member local education funds thanks Senator Sherrod Brown for his commitment in building collaboration as a pathway to holding the community as well as schools accountable for student success.”

-Wendy E. Puriefoy, President, Public Education Network

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